

**MINUTES
FORT MYERS BEACH
MARINE RESOURCES TASK FORCE**

Town Hall – Council Chambers
2523 Estero Boulevard
Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

I. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m. by Chair Veach. Members present: Tree Andre, Cheryl Clark, Cristina Denegre, Glen Thompson, Bill Veach and Keri Weeg.
Staff present: Keith Laakkonen
Council Liaison: Dan Andre

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. INVOCATION

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES of October 8, 2014

MOTION: Ms. Weeg moved to approve the minutes; second by Chair Veach.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

John Heim, resident, distributed and read the goals of the Waterways Quality Clean-up Committee.

Allen Richardson, 126 Tropical Shores Way, encouraged MRTF members to read the 2003 Hans Wilson Report.

VI. NEW ITEMS

No new items.

VII. CURRENT ITEMS

A. Beachscape Program (Veach)

Ongoing.

B. Adopt a Beach (Andre)

Ms. Andre revealed that she had garnered some interest. She commented that beach clean-up was important and tied in to seasonal parking lots. Ms. Andre felt that it was the responsibility of the seasonal parking lot owners to take care of trash on the beach. Chair Veach remarked that Adopt a Beach was voluntary and trash could be addressed separately. Discussion was held concerning enforcement, responsibility, marketing,

permit requirements, increasing trash cans, and impact fees Chair Veach commented that moving forward with Adopt a Beach would be a starting point for future ideas related to parking, impact fees, and trash. Mr. Laakkonen stated that MRTF had the option to bring the topic to council for their input. Ms. Andre and Ms. Weeg volunteered to contact parking lot owners.

C. Community Outreach/MRTF Event (Weeg)

Ms. Clark spoke to the manager at Koreshan regarding Earth Day and she learned that Sierra Club moved the event to Riverside Park in Bonita Springs. She shared information she received regarding attendance, parking, music, and a list of vendors. Chair Veach mentioned the Clean Beach Coalition identified July 1-7 as Clean Beach Week. Discussion was held concerning hosting an Earth Day event on the island. Ms. Weeg offered to contact Bonnie Roberts at Fish Tale and other resorts to gauge interest and Mr. Veach stated he would contact the songwriters

D. Newspaper Articles (Veach)

Ongoing.

E. FAQs (Weeg)

On the MRTF section of the website.

F. Informational Sticker for Rental Boats (Clark)

Mr. Laakkonen revealed that the stickers should arrive any day.

G. Brochure Distribution (all)

Mr. Laakkonen stated that an error would be corrected before the next printing.

H. Canals (Thompson)

Mr. Thompson distributed a draft of a report he created. He indicated that the Waterways Quality Clean-up Committee was very active. Mr. Thompson discussed the history and details of the Hans Wilson Report from April 2003. He outlined methods other than dredging for clean up, including using boats to rake the surface, forcefully moving water through the canals, and nursery habitats for marine organisms. Mr. Thompson proposed bringing the 2003 Hans Wilson Report up to date. He mentioned that a combination of the above methods could be used as an alternative to dredging. Ms. Denegre commented on long-term maintenance plans and she distributed information concerning aerators. Mr. Thompson pointed out that water runoff was a major issue and he suggested measuring water quality on a regular basis. Ms. Clark revealed that water quality was regularly measured in the back bay, but not the canals. Costs to update the study were discussed.

feasibility and expense of updating the report; second by Mr. Thompson.
VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

Chair Veach and Mr. Laakkonen will collaborate to compile a document for council.

I. Investigate Clean Beach Certifications (Veach)

Chair Veach reported that he was waiting to hear back from the Clean Beach Coalition.

J. Rebranding (Veach)

Chair Veach discussed involving tour operators to promote ecotourism, utilizing animal signage, creating an ecotourism package, and meeting with Bud Nocera at the Chamber of Commerce.

K. Mulholland Award

Chair Veach discussed organizing the Mulholland Award.

L. Rain Gardens (Veach)

Chair Veach offered to follow up.

VIII. MEMBER ITEMS AND REPORTS

No items.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

X. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Ms. Andre moved to adjourn; second by Ms. Weeg.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Adopted 12/10/14 with/without changes. Motion by Ker. Weeg
(DATE)

Vote: 6-0 Signature: 

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